

30. *Dendrophis Meeki*, sp. n.

Maxillary teeth 32 or 33. Eye very large, as long as its distance from the centre or the anterior border of the nostril. Rostral nearly twice as long as deep, just visible from above; internasals as long as the præfrontals; frontal once and one third to once and a half as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals; loreal once and two thirds or twice as long as deep; one præ- and two postoculars; temporals 2 + 2 or 3; eight or nine upper labials, fourth and fifth or fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the eye; five lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are shorter than the posterior. Scales in 13 rows, vertebrals about as large as outer. Ventrals 170-178; anal divided; subcaudals 139-147. Dark olive above; upper lip white, sharply limited above by a black line passing through the eye; lower parts pale olive, more or less freckled with darker.

Total length 1160 millim.; tail 420.

Several specimens.

This species is very closely allied to *D. lineolatus*, from which it may be distinguished by the longer parietal shields and the black demarcation line running along the upper border of the labials. I am not able to identify it with any of the doubtful species described by Macleay and Douglas Ogilby.

31. *Dipsas irregularis*, Merr.

32. *Diemenia Muelleri*, Schleg.

## BATRACHIANS.

1. *Rana papua*, Less.

2. *Cornufer corrugatus*, A. Dum.

3. *Hyla dolichopsis*, Cope.

4. — *thesaurensis*, Peters.

IV.—*On some new or little-known Reptiles obtained by W. H. Crosse, Esq., on the Niger.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

THE snakes here described were contained in an extensive collection of Reptiles and Batrachians made by W. H. Crosse, Esq., Principal Medical Officer in the Territories of the Royal Niger Company, near Asaba, about 150 miles up

the Niger, and presented by him to the British Museum. Among the numerous species represented in the collection the following may be mentioned as of special interest:—*Lygosoma guineense*, Ptrs.; *Chamaeleon basiliscus*, Cope; *Ch. parvilibus*, Blgr.; *Glauconia narirostre*, Ptrs.; *Tropidonotus variegatus*, Ptrs.; *Atractaspis irregularis*, Rhdt.; *A. aterrima*, Gthr.; and *Rana galamensis*, D. & B.

A small collection previously received from Mr. Crosse yielded the type of a new *Typhlops* (*T. Crossii*, Blgr.).

*Simocephalus Crossii*, sp. n.

Eye moderately large. Rostral much broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals broader than long, two thirds the length of the præfrontals; frontal as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals; loreal deeper than long; one præ- and two postoculars; temporals 2+3; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are short, like the posterior. Scales strongly keeled, in 17 rows. Ventrals 234; anal entire; subcaudals 53. Blackish above and on the outer ends of the ventrals, yellowish white beneath.

Total length 410 millim.; tail 50.

A single female specimen.

*Dromophis lineatus*, D. & B.

Snout once and a half to once and two thirds as long as the eye. Rostral as deep as broad, visible from above; nostril between two shields; internasals one third to one half the length of the præfrontals; frontal once and two thirds to twice as long as broad, not or but slightly narrower in the middle than the supraocular, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, as long as or a little shorter than the parietals; loreal once and a half to once and two thirds as long as deep; one præocular, not reaching the frontal; two (rarely three) postoculars; temporals 1+1 or 2; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye; four (rarely five) lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are as long as or a little shorter than the posterior. Scales in 17 rows. Ventrals 140–159; anal divided; subcaudals 78–105. Olive, most of the scales black-edged, with three greenish-yellow longitudinal lines, one on the vertebral row of the scales, the others on the fourth and fifth rows; outer row of scales greenish yellow, like the belly, its upper border

black; young with light cross-bars on the occiput and nape; præ- and postoculars and upper lip greenish yellow; some of the labials with the sutures black; belly and tail below greenish yellow or pale green, uniform or with a series of black dots or short lines on the outer ends of the ventrals.

Total length 1090 millim.; tail 330.

Several specimens, one of which (a young) is an albino.

Specimens from Liberia, Zanzibar, and Central Africa are also in the British Museum, where they were confounded with *Psammophis sibilans*. The type is from the Upper Nile.

Notwithstanding its resemblance to *Psammophis sibilans*, this snake was referred to *Dryophylax* by Duméril and Bibron on account of its dentition. The solid maxillary teeth, ten in number, form an uninterrupted series, the middle ones gradually and but moderately enlarged, as in *D. præornatus*, the type of Peters's genus *Dromophis*. *D. lineatus* may further be distinguished from all species of *Psammophis* by the equal depth of the three anterior upper labials.

#### *Naja Goldii*, sp. n.

Rostral a little broader than deep, the portion visible from above half as long as its distance from the frontal; internasals as long as the præfrontals, not reaching the præocular; frontal once and a half as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, as long as the parietals; one or two præ- and two postoculars; two or three suboculars; temporals 1 + 3; seven upper labials, fourth narrowly entering the eye, sixth largest; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are a little longer than the posterior. Neck non-dilatable. Scales in 15 rows on the neck as well as on the body. Ventrals 195; anal entire. Black above, with transverse series of small whitish spots; sides of head and end of snout white, with most of the sutures between the shields black; ventrals white, with a black-edge, which becomes gradually broader until, on the posterior fourth of the body, the shields are entirely black; subcaudals black.

Total length 1750 millim. (end of tail mutilated).

Only one specimen, a male.

This handsome snake, which is nearest allied to *N. anchietæ*, Bocage, is named in honour of Sir George Taubman Goldie, the Governor of the Royal Niger Company, who, through the great interest he takes in the natural history of the Niger, has given much assistance to Mr. Crosse in forming the collection reported upon in this note.